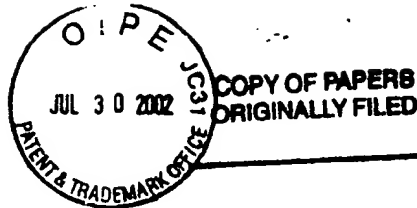


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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
TETSUHIRO MAEDA ET AL. ) Examiner: L. Nguyen  
Application No.: 09/629,093 ) Group Art Unit: 2861  
Filed: July 31, 2000 )  
For: INK JET PRINTING APPARATUS )  
AND INK JET PRINTING METHOD : July 23, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance dated April 23, 2002, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) having been previously filed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

July 23, 2002

(Date of Deposit)

JOSEPH W. RAGUSA Reg. No. 38,586

(Name of Attorney for Applicants)

Signature

July 23, 2002

Date of Signature